SENCA HEAD START….STILL GOING STRONG!
Submitted by: Angela Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director

SENCA Head Start is a comprehensive child development program which serves children from age 3 to 5 and their families. Head Start is a child-focused program and has the overall goal of increasing school readiness of young children in low-income families. Comprehensive child development, school readiness, and family support are provided and have a direct impact on their future success.

During the 2017-2018 school year, 167 children and 155 families received comprehensive services. Health services ensured that 95% of children were up-to-date on immunizations, physical exams, and dental exams. Twenty-four percent (24%) of children received special education. More than 88% of children enrolled made significant growth in school readiness goals. More information about child outcomes can be found in the Youth Education section of this newsletter. The public is encouraged to check out our progress reports at www.senca.org.

The beginning of the 2018-2019 school year is just weeks away and we are pleased to welcome the following staff to our program: Anita Kimpston, Lisa Hunzeker, Marcy Saalfeld, and Mary Ann Simpson. There are always changes as the program conducts ongoing monitoring and program improvement activities, but the program has always maintained one constant… talented staff that are dedicated to serving the children and families of southeast Nebraska!

Thank you for your continued support of SENCA’s programs and services. Tax Deductible Donations can be made online at www.senca.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Promise of Community Action
Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.
2018 Update to the SENCA Community Demographic and Assessment Information for SENCA's Six County Service Area

In March and April of 2018, SENCA hosted town hall meetings in each of its six core counties to gather customer, partner, and community member input on community strengths, weaknesses, and needs. The meetings were attended by 29 customers, 85 partners 43 community members, and 21 staff members. The compiled results of these events help provide vital information that SENCA can utilize in working with community partners to develop new programs that provide solutions to top identified challenges.

Community Strengths (ranked high to low)
- Community and government services
- Service organizations
- School systems
- Local businesses, sense of community, Civic groups
- Partnerships/Communication, Econ Dev. Activities
- Housing
- SENCA programs and services
- Health systems, Churches, Senior services
- Mental health and substance abuse services

Community Weaknesses (ranked high to low)
- Safe, decent, affordable housing
- Free or low cost family and youth activities
- Jobs, wages, and skilled labor; mental health and substance abuse services
- Transportation services, education programs and financial assistance, child care, Infrastructure and facility conditions, emergency services and case management, businesses
- Services to address declining and aging populations
- Communication
- Transitional services for incarcerated persons, law enforcement and legal assistance

Community Need (ranked by priority)
- Housing
- Child care
- Employment opportunities, better wages, and employment skills
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Education programs, transportation services, Youth programs and activities, Health care services
- Grocery stores for competitive prices, poverty services and services for the elderly

Changes to Three Counties

SENCA has changed outreach office hours in three of their locations, Auburn, Pawnee City, and Tecumseh. This change went into effect on Monday, July 9th.

Sasha Rightess, Family Development Specialist, pictured above, will meet clients from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on the following days: Monday – Tecumseh; Tuesday – Auburn; Wednesday - Pawnee City; Thursday – Tecumseh; and Friday – Auburn. The Pawnee City and Tecumseh sites will remain open Monday through Friday for meals and activities from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SENCA hosted Meet and Greet events in both Tecumseh and Pawnee City during the month of July. Each of these events provided a wonderful opportunity to stop by the local outreach offices and visit with Sasha, who has been providing SENCA programs and services to southeast Nebraska residents since 2001.

For questions or further assistance, please contact Sasha at 402-297-7427 or Pam Armknecht at 402-862-2411 x 105.

Youth Education

Children make great strides

Submitted by: Angela Antholz, Head Start & Deputy Director

SENCA Head Start students grew in all developmental domains from fall of 2017 to spring of 2018. The greatest gains across all domains were in the area of mathematics once again. In fall 2017, 66 students entered Head Start performing below expectations in the area of mathematics, while only 79 were meeting or exceeding expectations. By the end of the school year only 14 students remained below expectations, while 135 were meeting or exceeding expectations. When looking at data by age groups, 3-year olds showed the most growth in the literacy domain and 4-year olds showed the most growth in mathematics. Girls showed the most growth in math, while the boys’ greatest growth occurred in cognition.

Children performing below expectations dropped from 33% to 5% by the end of the year showing significant growth. Children exceeding expectations drastically increased from 8% to 43% by the end of the year. When combining the meeting expectations and exceeding expectations categories, 67% fell in those two categories in fall 2017 and 95% were in those two categories by year end, resulting in a growth of 28% just in those two categories.

An analysis of growth outcomes indicates physical development yielded the highest amount of children meeting or exceeding expectation this past year, but data indicates that this area experienced the least growth throughout the year. The question posed, “Is there any growth occurring in a child who remains in the same expectation category?” Spring data indicates that math had the highest growth, yet had the least number of children below the growth range for the year. This tells us that even though a child may remain in the same expectation category all year, it is not an indication that growth has or has not occurred over time. The 2017-2018 Growth Outcomes chart indicates significant growth across all domains.